

## **ECONOMIC PROSPERITY**

A Strategy for American Innovation:
Securing Our Economic Growth and Prosperity

"America's future economic growth and international competitiveness depend on our capacity to innovate. We can create the jobs and industries



of the future by doing what America does best – investing in the creativity and imagination of our people. To win the future, we must out-innovate, out-educate, and out-build the rest of the world. We also must take responsibility for our deficit, by investing in what makes America stronger, cutting what doesn't, and reforming how our government operates so it focuses on promoting our economic growth and preparing for the challenges of a new century." Full Text / Executive Summary

- President Barack Obama

Remarks by President Obama on Fiscal Policy The White House, April 13, 2011.

<u>The President's Framework for Shared Prosperity and Shared Fiscal Responsibility</u> White House fact sheet, April 13, 2011. See also "<u>Governors Back President's Fiscal Policy Speech</u>", April 13, 2011.

<u>If Business and Government Fulfill Their Responsibilities, America Will Win The Future</u> Weekly address by President Obama, February 5, 2011. <u>Listen</u>

<u>Household Balance Sheets and the Recovery</u> by Timothy Bianco & Filippo Occhino. Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, *Economic Commentary*, March 24, 2011.

**Financial Reform: Post Crisis?** Speech by Thomas M. Hoenig, President, Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, February 23, 2011. 13p.

**Economic Projections From the January FOMC Meeting** by Brent Meyer. Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, *Economic Trends*, February 17, 2011.

The Keys to Regional Growth by Sandra Pianalto, President & CEO, Federal Res. Bank of Cleveland, Feb'11.

# Index of Economic Freedom: Promoting Economic Opportunity and Prosperity The 2011 Index of Freedom: 192 countries pages 10 annihilation freedom:

The 2011 Index of Economic Freedom - 183 countries across 10 specific freedoms.

What is Economic Freedom? How is it measured?

Economy at a Glance - current U.S. statistics/ <u>USA Economy in Brief</u> U.S. Dept of State, IIP, April 2011.

<u>Sustainable America: A New Consensus for the Prosperity, Opportunity and a Healthy Environment for the Future</u>

The Arts and Economic Prosperity in North Carolina: a 2011 Study

**SPOTLIGHT** is produced monthly by the American Reference Center,Office of Public Affairs, U. S. Embassy Wellington It includes abstracts of, and links to, current articles from U.S. publications, by U.S. authors, highlighting significant issues in international or U.S. domestic affairs. Views expressed in items cited are those of authors and do not necessarily reflect U.S. govt. policies.

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Politics/Government
Trade/Economy
Environment/Energy
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#### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The U.S. Role in Our Changing World: Navigating the World's Transnational Challenges Speech by U.S. Asst. Secretary of State Esther Brimmer, in Seattle, March 30, 2011 (U.S. multilateral engagement and U.N.).

The U.S. Assistant Secretary of State said: "I'm with you today at a remarkable time, punctuated by the events in Japan and in Libya. The U.S. response to these extraordinary events provide a useful context for my comments this evening. You all know that the President spoke on Monday about the U.S. approach to the situation in Libya. The speech was about more than just Libya, however. In it, the President clearly enunciated his approach to global issues. He said: "As we have in Libya, our task is instead to mobilize the international community for collective action. Because contrary to the claims of some, American leadership is not simply a matter of going it alone and bearing all the burden ourselves. Real leadership creates conditions and coalitions for others to step up as well, to work with allies and partners so that they bear their share of the burden and pay their share of the costs, and to see that the principles of justice and human dignity are upheld by all."

American "Smart Power": Diplomacy and Development Are the Vanguard Fact sheet, U.S. Dept of State, April 28, 2011.

"We must use what has been called smart power: the full range of tools at our disposal – diplomatic, economic, military, political, legal, and cultural – picking the right tool, or combination of tools, for each situation."

- Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton

**Remarks by U.S. Deputy Secretary of State James B. Steinberg** at Duke University's Sanford School of Public Policy, February 28, 2011 (on U.S. foreign policy under the Obama Administration).

There are many reasons why engagement with civil society is so important to achieving our national interests.

Want a New Map of Asia? Include the United States by Satu Limaye. East-West Center, Asia Pacific Center, April 7, 2011. 2p.

Satu Limaye argues that achieving American goals requires not a strict definition of a "big Asia" but expanded commitment to the "Pacific principle"- American diplomatic, economic, and security engagement across the Pacific to Asia. He says the most meaningful and useful map of Asia must now include the United States.

<u>Getting Beyond Taiwan? Chinese Foreign Policy and PLA Modernization</u> by Michael Glosny. *NDU*, January 2011. 15p.

Cross-strait rapprochement would also lead to new frictions and new worries among regional countries and the United States that a China no longer focused on Taiwan will use its increased power to challenge their interests elsewhere in Asia. Stabilizing the cross-strait political situation will free up resources previously devoted to military preparations for Taiwan contingencies and allow the People's Liberation Army (*PLA*) to undertake new missions and reassess priorities.

<u>Small Nuclear Reactors for Military Installations: Capabilities, Costs, and Technological Implications</u> by Richard Andred & Hanna Breetz. *NDU*, February, 2011.

The Dept. of Defense (*DOD*) has recently expressed interest in the possibility of integrating small nuclear reactors on military bases as part of its strategy to "island" bases from the fragile civilian power grid. Small nuclear reactor technology offers a host of benefits over traditional large reactors - namely, a smaller footprint, scalable design, factory-based construction, portability, and passive safety features.

Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Kurt Campbell testified before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and Pacific on "Asia Overview: Protecting American Interests in China and Asia" U.S. Dept. of State, March 31, 2011.

Assistant Secretary Campbell said that the Asia-Pacific is essential to U.S. long-term national interests and underscored key aspects of U.S. engagement strategy for the region, adding that it was clear that America's success in the 21st century is tied to the success of the dynamic Asia-Pacific region. As Secretary Clinton has noted, much of the history of the 21<sup>st</sup> century will be written in Asia. **Full Text/Listen** 

More online resources which may be of interest:

**Ten Years after 9/11: A Report from the 9/11 Commission Chairmen** Hearing before the *U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs,* March 30, 2011.

The Permanent Provisions of the PATRIOT Act Hearing before a subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary, March 30, 2011.

Sudan: The Crisis in Darfur and the Status of the North-South Peace Agreement CRS, March 4, 2011.

Japan-U.S. Relations

Japan's 2011 Earthquake and Tsunami: Economic Effects & Implications for the U.S. CRS, March 25'11.

Japan-U.S. Relations: Issues for Congress CRS, March 24, 2011.

Japan 2011 Earthquake: U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) Response CRS, March 22, 2011.

**Nuclear Energy Safety** 

**Nuclear Power Safety Concerns** by Toni Johnson. CFR, March 30, 2011.

Nuclear Power Plant Sites: Maps of Seismic Hazards and Population Centers CRS, March 29, 2011.

The Japanese Nuclear Incident: Technical Aspects CRS, March 29, 2011.

Fukushima Nuclear Crisis CRS, March 24, 2011.

**Middle East and North Africa** 

<u>Shifting Sands: Political Transition in the Middle East, Part 1</u> Hearing before a *subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs*, April 13, 2011. <u>Transcripts</u>, and scroll down.

Handling the Middle East's Tectonic Shifts Interview with Edward P. Djerejian. CFR, April 1, 2011.

<u>Iran Sanctions Act Announcement</u> Media note, *U.S. Dept of State*, March 29, 2011.

<u>Libya: Defining U.S. National Security Interests</u> Hearing before the *U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs*, March 31, 2011. **Transcripts**, and scroll down.

**Egypt's Real Debates Begin** Expert brief by Robert Danin. CFR, March 31, 2011.

<u>Assessing the Situation in Libya</u> Hearing before the *U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations*, March 31, 2011. The witness is U.S. Deputy Secretary of State James B. Steinberg.

<u>Operation Odyssey Dawn and the Situation in Libya</u> Hearing, *U.S. Senate Com. Armed Services*, March 31'11. <u>Operation Odyssey Dawn and U.S. Military Operations in Libya</u> Hearing before the *U.S. House Committee on Armed Services*, March 31, 2011.

Operation Odyssey Dawn (Libya): Background and Issues for Congress CRS, March 28, 2011.

**Remarks at the International Conference on Libya** Remarks by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, in London, March 29, 2011. The **Secretary's remarks after the conference** 

Prudent Multilateralism in Libya "First take" article by Stewart M. Patrick. CFR, March 29, 2011.

<u>Libya: Unrest and U.S. Policy</u> CRS, March 29, 2011.

Is This 1848? What History Can Teach Us about Arab Revolutions by Leon Neyfakh. Boston Globe, March 27'11.

Yemen: Background and U.S. Relations CRS, March 22, 2011.

#### **POLITICS / GOVERNMENT**

Tea Party: Better Known, Less Popular Pew Research Center, April 8, 2011.

<u>A Declining Constituency: Unions and the Democratic Party</u> by Alan I. Abramowitz. *Sabato's Crystal Ball*, April 7, 2011.

President Obama and Campaign 2012 AEI Political Report, April 2011.

2010 Census Redistricting Data - Summary Files Census Bureau, March 2011.

**Federal Regulation: How Best to Advance the Public Interest?** Hearing before the *U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs*, April 14, 2011.

**The Fair Elections Now Act: A Comprehensive Response to Citizens United** Hearing before a *subcommittee* of the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, April 12, 2011.

<u>Strengthening the Senior Executive Service: A Review of Challenges Facing the Government's Leadership Corps</u> Hearing before a *subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs*, March 29, 2011.

Raising the Agencies' Grades: Protecting the Economy, Assuring Regulatory Quality and Improving Assessments of Regulatory Need Hearing before a subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary, March 29, 2011.

<u>Key Indicator Systems: Experiences of Other National and Subnational Systems Offer Insights for the United States</u> *GAO*, March 2011. *Note*: 108p.

<u>Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States: Barack Obama</u> (2009, Book I). *U.S. Government Printing Office*, 2011.

#### **ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY**

The American Energy Initiative Hearing before a subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce, April 4, 2011.

<u>Trends in Renewable Energy Consumption and Electricity 2009</u> Energy Information Administration, U.S. Dept of Energy, March 2011. 49p. <u>Summary</u>

<u>Effects of Crude Oil Supply Disruptions: How Long Can They Last?</u> Energy Information Administration, U.S. Dept of Energy, *Today in Energy*, March 30, 2011.

<u>Climate Change</u> Hearing before U.S. House Committee on Science, Space and Technology, March 31, 2011.

<u>Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States 2009</u> 18<sup>th</sup> annual report, *Energy Information Administration, U.S. Dept of Energy*, March 2011. 86p.

America's Energy Security Remarks by President Obama, March 30, 2011. White House Fact Sheet

Obama's Sensible Oil and Gas Shift "First take" analysis by Michael A. Levi. CFR, March 30, 2011.

### **Transportation & Infrastructure**

<u>Improving and Reforming the Nation's Surface Transportation Programs</u> Hearing before the *U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure*, March 30, 2011.

Alternative Approaches to Funding Highways Congressional Budget Office, March 2011. 38p.Summary etc.

<u>Intercity Passenger and Freight Rail: Better Data and Communication of Uncertainty Can Help Decision</u>
<u>Makers Understand Benefits and Trade-offs of Programs and Policies</u> *GAO*, Feb., 2011. 72p.

#### TRADE / ECONOMY

Funding for Fiscal Year 2011 Statement by White House Press Secretary, April 14, 2011.

<u>State and Municipal Debt: Tough Choices Ahead</u> Hearing before the *U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform*, April 14, 2011.

**From Recession to Expansion: A Policymaker's Perspective** Speech by Charles I. Plosser, president and chief executive officer, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, April 1, 2011.

<u>Competition and Consolidation in Financial Markets</u> Hearing before a *subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary*, April 1, 2011.

New York Fed Welcomes Strategic Roadmap to Support Global Efforts in OTC Derivatives Markets News release, Federal Reserve Bank of New York, April 5, 2011.

**2011 National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers** Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), March 2011. **Country chapters from this 391-page report / USTR news release** March 30, 2011.

**2011 Report on Technical Barriers to Trade** Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, March 2011. News release, March 30, 2011.

**The Doha Negotiations** Statement by Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Michael Punke, *U.S. Ambassador the World Trade Organization, to the Trade Negotiations Committee*, Geneva, March 29, 2011.

**TARP** Address by U.S. Acting Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Timothy G. Massad, March 29, 2011.

**The Great Recession's Effect on Entrepreneurship** by Scott Shane. Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, *Economic Commentary*, March 24, 2011.

**Bank Lending** By Matthew Koepke & James B. Thomson. Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, *Economic Trends*, March 23, 2011.

<u>Surveying the Aftermath of the Storm: Changes in Family Finances from 2007 to 2009</u> Staff working paper by Jesse Bricker et al., U.S. Federal Reserve, March 2011. 38p.

<u>A Revised and Expanded Food Dollar Series: A Better Understanding of Our Food Costs</u> by Patrick Canning. *Economic Research Service, U.S. Dept of Agriculture*, February 2011. 49p.

Fact Sheet on Pathways to Prosperity in the Americas U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, March 21, 2011.

<u>Economic Decline Widespread in 2009. Bureau of Economic Analysis</u> U.S. Dept of Commerce, February 23, 2011. 26p. (GDP statistics by metropolitan area)

#### **GLOBAL ISSUES**

<u>The State of the World's Children 2011: Adolescence – an Age of Opportunity</u> *UNICEF*, February 2011. *Note*: 138p.

<u>International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action</u> Statement by Susan E. Rice, U.S. Permanent Representative to the UN, April 4, 2011.

Key U.S. Accomplishments at the UN Human Rights Council Fact sheet, U.S. Dept of State, March 30'11.

Remarks at a Ceremony Celebrating the Negotiation of Agreements between the United States and 100 Open Skies Partners Remarks by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, March 30, 2011.

<u>Open Skies Partnerships: Expanding the Benefits of Freer Commercial Aviation</u> Fact sheet, *U.S. Dept of State*, March 29, 2011. <u>Global Air</u> – links to aviation information resources

#### **EDUCATION**

New Schools in New Orleans by Jed Home in Education Next, Spring 2011.

Five years after Hurricane Katrina, the New Orleans public schools bear little resemblance to the disintegrating system that was further undone by the catastrophic flood.

**Disappearing Ink** by Michael Petrelli in *Education Next*, Fall 2009.

What happens when the education reporter goes away.

Some educational resources which may be of interest:

Findings from the 2011 CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey: Phase 1: Applications Council of Graduate Schools (CGS), April 2011.

America's High School Graduates: Results of the 20099 NAEP High School Transcript Study National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Dept of Education, April 2011. 64p. Summary

**Education Reforms: Promoting Flexibility and Innovation** Hearing before the *U.S. House Committee on Education and the Workforce*, April 7, 2011.

**Reviving Our Economy: The Role of Higher Education in Job Growth and Development** Field hearing of the *U.S. House Committee on Education and the Workforce*, March 21, 2011; see also **March 22, 2011** 

**The Innovative University: Changing the DNA of Higher Education** by Henry J. Eyring & Clayton M. Christensen. *American Council on Education*, February 2011. 3p.

#### **BUSINESS**

Why Project Networks Beat Project Teams by Jonathon Cummings & Carol Pletcher in Sloan Management Review, April 25, 2011.

Knowledge-intensive team projects are enhanced when team members tap their personal networks for feedback, bringing in the potentially high-value contributions of 'noncore' contributors.

The Case For Executive Assistants by Melba Duncan in Harvard Business Review, May.

Duncan observes that the secretary of those days has gone the way of the carbon copy and been replaced by the executive assistant as technologies like e-mail, voice mail, mobile devices, and online calendars have allowed managers at all levels to operate with a greater degree of self-sufficiency. At the same time, companies have faced enormous pressure to cut costs, reduce head count, and flatten organizational structures, leading to lower numbers of assistants at lower corporate levels. That's unfortunate, because effective assistants can make enormous contributions to productivity at all levels of the organization.

4 Tips for Being More Creative by Kaihan Krippendorff on Fast Company, April 14, 2011.

Confusion set in as a group of insurance executives, and the lawyers in particular, were generating so many ideas.

6 Ways Social Media Helps Your Presentation Resonate by Brian Solis on Fast Company, April 14, 2011.

Social media has forced presentations to become an interactive conversation. Solis says presenters who embrace audience participation are connecting their audiences to their ideas in a more meaningful way.

Some business resources which may be of interest:

Impediments to Job Creation Hearing before U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means, March 30, 2011.

Why Companies Fail to Innovate by Clayton M. Christensen on Fast Company, March 29, 2011.

#### **MEDIA**

The Climate Context in Japan by James Fahn on Columbia Journalism Review, April 5, 2011.

Crisis tests media's ability to frame nuclear debate in a world beset by energy risks.

An Abundance of Images Pablo Corral Vega in Nieman Reports, Spring, 2011.

Is it leading to a trivialization of photography? Vega says most of us take pictures because we want to remember, affirm affections, and leave a record of our connections with others, visible proof that we were, we loved, we celebrated. Some take photos to show beauty, asking others to look with amazement at this complex world. We take photos because we want to share, because we want to tell others, "Look, pay attention, my eyes enrich yours." Professional photographers, he believes, should be asking themselves more urgent questions.

"Too Amazing To Turn Down" by Jeffrey Benzing in American Journalism Review, April 5, 2011.

High-profile journalists are leaving prestigious news outlets like the *New York Times* to join *The Huffington Post*. It's just what happens when you take a handful of the country's most experienced, pedigreed journalists and give them free rein to hand-pick their staffs and cover dream beats, obsessively, without concerns over space...

<u>Out of Tragedy in Turkey Emerges a Journalistic Mission: Engaging the Next Generation</u> by *Özge Mumcu* in *Nieman Reports*, Spring, 2011.

"...The year after my father was murdered, our family founded a Foundation in Ankara, Turkey. Its aim is to spread the ideas and principles my father lived by and to encourage young people who are concerned about social problems and have ideals of hard work and humanity to enter the field of journalism. Its guiding principle is the promotion of freedom of expression..."

<u>Pay to Play</u> by Cary Spivak in *American Journalism Review*, February 23, 2011.

As cash-strapped newspapers struggle to adapt to the Internet age, more and more are asking readers to pay for digital content. Proponents and critics alike agree that 2011 will see many revenue-starved newspapers begin charging for online news.

"The Risks are Worth Taking as Long as Nothing Happens" by Lauren Kirchner on CJR, April 1, 2011.

Four NYT journalists captured in Libya speak at Columbia University.

#### **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

**The Cloud: Unleashing Global Opportunities** Speech by Julius Genachowski, chairman, U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC), in Brussels, March 24, 2011.

Email Management: 10 Rules For Taking Back Control of Your Inbox - All you need to know...

5 Myths about the "Information Age" by Robert Darnton. Chronicle of Higher Education online, April 17'11.

**Emerging Legal Issues in Social Media: Part II** by Ken Strutin. LLRX.com, March 21, 2011. This 2<sup>nd</sup> part of Ken Strutin's online survey focuses on recent items appearing in professional journals and blogs, law reviews, reports, books and secondary sources, along with references to current awareness sources.

"Regardless of Frontiers": The International Right to Freedom of Expression in the Digital Age Discussion draft, Center for Democracy & Technology, April 2011. 64p.

**The State of Online Consumer Privacy** Hearing before the *U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation*, March 16, 2011.

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